

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, EGEN, PFOR, DA

SUBJECT: HIGH-LEVEL PERSONNEL SHIFTS IN DANISH

FOREIGN MINISTRY

1. THIS WEEK, THE SECOND DEPARTMENT (ECONOMIC AFFAIRS) OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REORGANIZED ITS OFFICES AND SHIFTED PERSONNEL AT THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY LEVEL. THE MOVE WAS INITIATED FOLLOWING THE DEATH, SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, OF FLEMMING AGERUP, THEN DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. HIS POSITION IS NOW BEING TAKEN BY AMBASSADOR MOGENS WANDEL-PETERSEN WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS WITHIN THE SAME DEPARTMENT. WANDEL-PETERSEN WILL RETAIN THE AGRICULTURE OFFICE AND THE OFFICE DEALING WITH FAEROESE, GREENLAND, AND FISHERY MATTERS. WANDEL-PETERSEN TOLD US THAT THE LOGIC FOR THIS MOVE LIES IN THE ASSUMPTION THAT ISSUES HANDLED BY THESE OFFICES WILL IN THE FUTURE INCREASINGLY INVOLVE MORE THAN INTRA-COMMUNITY RELATIONS.

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2. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS ARE NOW BEING HANDLED BY THE NEWLY APPOINTED DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY GUNNAR RIBERHOLDT, ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST, YOUNG (AGE 42) MFA OFFICERS AND A PROTEGE OF UNDER SECRETARY JENS CHRISTENSEN. RIBERHOLDT HAS FOR THE PAST YEAR BEEN A KEY DANISH OFFICIAL ON ENERGY MATTERS. ENERGY WILL REMAIN UNDER HIS JURISDICTION, TOGETHER WITH ALL EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MATTERS EXCEPTING AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES. ONE OF HIS PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INVOLVE KEEPING THE FOLKETING'S MARKETS COMMITTEE BRIEFED ON ALL COMMUNITY ISSUES AND ASSURE THEIR SUPPORT OF DENMARK'S COMMUNITY POLICIES.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: WANDEL-PETERSEN, WHO SPENT MOST OF HIS PREVIOUS CAREER IN LATIN AMERICA, WAS NEVER CONFORTABLE IN HANDLING COMMUNITY MATTERS OVER THE PAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS. HE TOLD US HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE CHANGE IN RESPONSIBILITY TO THE MORE FAMILIAR TERRITORY OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH NON-EC COUNTRIES. WE SUSPECT THAT THE MAJOR REASON FOR REMOVING SEVERAL OFFICES FROM RIBERHOLDT'S NEW JURISDICTION WAS HIS INEXPERIENCE AT HIGH-LEVEL MANAGEMENT MORE THAN ANHTHING ELSE. RIBERHOLDT IS LIKELY TO BE MORE FORECEFUL THAN WANDEL-PETERSEN IN DEVELOPING DENMARK'S EC POLICIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, WANDEL-PETERSEN WILL PROBABLY BE MORE EVEN-TEMPERED THAN HIS LATE PREDECESSOR IN THE HANDLING OF INTER-NATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES. HE HAVE HAD EXCELLENT AND CLOSE RETAIONS WITH BOTH WANDEL-PETERSEN AND RIBERHOLDT AND EXPECT THIS RELATIONSHIP TO CONTINUE.
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